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MARCH



JAZZ AT
THE WHITE HORSE
SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

# Focus Magazine Committee

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Focus accepts no responsibility as to the accuracy or content of any advertising or articles published in 'this' magazine neither do they reflect the opinion of members of the Committee.

10 The Nurseries, Eaton Bray 220868

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Kevin Cubbage

'Larums', Eaton Bray Road, Northall Val Barrow

3 Chestnut Close, Dagnall

Focus would like to remind contributors that the deadline for articles is the 10th of the preceding month.

# Kindly Note

If the event you wish to advertise falls in the first week of the month, it is advisable to get the details into Focus a month earlier. The magazines are not delivered from the printers until the first of the month, therefore it takes a few days for them all to be circulated throughout the village.

# Village Hall Bookings

To book your local village hall for an event please contact the following:

Northall: Lorna Cubbage Tel: 01525 220361 Eaton Bray: Norman Lee Tel: 01525 222831 Dagnall: Elizabeth Coates Tel: 01442 842550

Edlesborough Memorial Hall: Penny Pataky, Tel: 01525 229358

#### Police Contact Numbers...

making neighbourhoods safer together

General Assistance (Recommended Number): 101 Emergency: 999
Bedfordshire Police (Eaton Bray)

Leighton Buzzard Police Station/Kathryn Horgan: 01582 473418 Typetalk: 18001 01582 473418

Email: LPT.LeightonRural@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

Thames Valley Police (Edlesborough, Dagnall & Northall)

PCSO Jackie Dodson Mobile: 07800 703 524 Email: NHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

# Villago Diagy March 2015

Weekly Mon-Fri

Eaton Bray Pre-school, Eaton Bray Lower School, 01525 220468

(term time)

Mon-Fri Dagnall Under 5's, Dagnall Village Hall, 9.15am - 12.15pm, Mrs Ann Tobin 07816 358342

(term time)

Edlesborough Pre-School, Edlesborough School, 01525 220431 Mon-Fri

manager@edlesborough.bucks.sch.uk (term time)

Mon-Thu Totternhoe Pre-school, mornings, Totternhoe Lower School, Michelle Urbanowicz, on (term time) 01582 668841

Pilates, 10.45am, St.Giles Church Hall, Totternhoe, Lisa: 07799 893489 Mondays

Mondays 2nd Eaton Bray Brownies, girls 7-10 years, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, 6 - 7.30pm.

(term time) Contact Sandra Counsell 07979 521900

Dagnall Community Choir, All Saints Church 7.45 – 9.45pm Mondays

Weight Watchers, 7pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall Mondays

Movement and exercise classes with a dance flavour, Northall Village hall 2-3,30. Mondays

(term time) Contact Jan 01442 864271.

Curtain Call Youth Theatre 5-7.30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Gayyn 01525 220525 Mondays Mondays Curtain Call Theatre Group - 7:30-10:30pm Eaton Bray Village Hall, Sheila -

sdtwinkletoes@yahoo.co.uk

KFPA ISTD Classical Ballet classes, 3+vrs, 4.15pm, Edlesbrough Memorial Hall, Mondays

www.kfpa.co.uk

Tuesdays Line Dancing, 1.30-3p.m., Eaton Bray Village Hall, Lyn Stubbs 220731 Pilates, 10-11am, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Nicky Roussou 07861 162680 Tuesdays

Totternhoe Baby & Toddler Group, 9.30-11.30am, St. Giles Church Hall, Ruth Allen, Tuesdays

01525 222468 or 07796 265174 or email ruthallen002@gmail.com

Northall Baby & Toddler Group, 9:30-11:30am, (open in the Summer School Holidays) Tuesdays

Northall Village Hall, Stacey Richmond 01525 222999/07957 607592

Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Tuesdays

01582 620576

Tuesdays Circuit Training - Edlesborough School Hall, 7-8pm - www.simplesfitness.com

Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy, Table Top Sale, 10-12noon, Salvation Army Hall, Tuesdays

Fortnightly Booth Place, Eaton Bray

Cheeky Monkeys Under 5's playtime, 1pm - 2,45pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, contact Weds

Rachel on 07789 760007 (term time)

Wednesdays Pilates, 7.15pm, Northall Village Hall, Lisa: 07799 893489

Egyptian Dance Class, 7.30-8.45pm at Eaton Bray Village Hall. Contact: Soraya on Wednesdays

07976 964316 for more details

Wednesdays Northall & District Age Concern Wednesday Club, 10am - 3pm, Northall Village Hall,

Contact Anna on 07854 230243

Wednesdays Dynamic Yoga 6.30-7.30pm £5 Eaton Bray Coffee Tayern Keira 07936 693696

Thursdays Yoga, Northall Village Hall, 11.30am-1pm 01525 377542

Baby & Toddler Group, Salvation Army Hall, Booth Place, Eaton Bray, 9.30-11.30am Thursdays

Thursdays Keep Fit, Edlesborough School, 8pm Tel: 01582 668735

Thursdays Jazzercise, 9.30-10.30am, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Angela Veryard, 01525 715208

Thursdays KFPA Street dance classes 4+vrs 4pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, www.kfpa.co.uk

Thursdays Central Bedfordshire Children's Centres' Toy Library, 9-9.45am, Eaton Bray (School

Fortnightly Lane) Public Car Park

Keep Fit class, Edesborough Mermorial Hall 10 - 11am Fridays

Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Fridays

01582 620576

"Little Luvvies" baby ballet classes 10am-11.30am. Contact Emma Whittemore on Fridays

(term time) 01525 376124 Village Diary March 2015

Fridays Kids Club 6:00pm to 7:00pm Grace Baptist Church, Edlesborough (across from

(term time) the post office)

Fridays Crazy Abs abdominal workout - 6-6:30pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall - www.

simplesfitness.com

Saturdays Jazzercise, 9.30-10.30am, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Angela Veryard, 01525 715208 Saturdays Drama Class for Children, 10.35am-12.35pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Claire

Casev, 07792 508591

Saturdays KFPA Musical Theatre classes 4+yrs www.kfpa.co.uk, 10am, Edlesborough

Memorial Hall

Sundays Sundays Worship at 11:00am and 6:30 pm Grace Baptist Church, Edlesborough

(across from the post office) Barry 01525 229610 or Peter 01525 221048

Monthly

1st Monday Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, The Coffee Tavern

1st Monday Eaton Bray W.I. Meeting, 7.30pm. Eaton Bray Methodist Church Hall. Contact

Barbara Collier on 01525 221401

1st & 3rd Tuesday Dunstable & District Orbit (social and charitable) Club meet at Dunstable Rugby

Club at 8pm. For details contact 01525 222441 or 01582 755147

1st Saturday St. Mary's church, Eaton Bray Coffee Morning & Plant Sale, 10am - 12 noon 1st Sunday May to September, St Mary's Church, Edlesborough Open Day, 2-5pm

2nd & 4th Tuesday TOTS, St Mary's, Eaton Bray, 2pm

2nd Tuesday Dunstable & District Local History Society meeting, 7.45pm, Methodist Church

Hall, Dunstable (opposite Wilkinson)

2nd Tuesday Edlesborough W.I. Meeting, 7.30 pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall

2nd Wednesday St.Mary's Ladies Guild, 2pm, St.Mary's, Eaton Bray

2nd Wednesday Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Lions Club, 7.30pm, The Coffee Tayern

2nd Thursday
CAMEO Coffee, tea & chat, 10am-12noon, Edlesborough Methodist Church
2nd Saturday
Workshops Dynamic Yoga 9.30-11am £10 Eaton Bray Coffee Tayern Keira 07936

693696

3rd Thursday Edlesborough Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall

3rd Sunday Lunch club 11.30 to 2.00pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Chris Hewitt 222288

Last Saturday Coffee Morning, 10-12 noon, Edlesborough Methodist Church

Other Regular Events

1st Beds Area Narrow Gauge Model Railway Club Meeting, 11.30am-4.30pm, Eaton

Bray Village Hall

13th Leukemia Research Coffee Morning, 2 Dunstable Road, Dagnall 10.30 am, All

welcome.

14th Cafe Community, 11am-1pm, Eaton Bray Methodist Church

16th ELF walk from Eaton Bray church 10am

17th Dagnall Over Sixties, Bingo at Dagnall Village Hall

One Off/Annual/Irregular Events

13th Northall & District Wednesday Club Ouiz Night, 7:30pm, Northall Village Hall,

Tickets: 220868

21st Appledown's Motown Party, Leighton Buzzard Football Club, 8pm-midnight,

Tickets £5 from Appledown

25th ELF visit to Bentley Priory, 10am from the Coffee Tavern

26th - 28th Leighton Buzzard Theatre 'Dangerous Corner' Box Office: 0300 300 8123

28th Grove Theatre, 7:30pm, Danesborough Chorus, M. K. City Orchestra, soloists:

Mozart, Handel (Zadok, etc.) Fauré.

# VIIIage Notices

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# WEDNESDAY CLUB NORTHALL

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07854 230243

and leave a message with your details

# NORTHALL BAPTIST CHAPEL

Chapel Lane, Northall

(just beyond the 30 speed limit signs on the road towards Leighton Buzzard) Everyone is welcome to our Sunday worship each week between 11am and 12.30pm including tea/coffee and time to talk together.

> For more information contact: John Hazell 01525 218142

Email northallchapel@btinternet.com There has been a Baptist Chapel in Northall for more than 200 years. Today we continue to seek to worship God, serve him in our daily lives and support and encourage one another in the difficult and the joyful times.



# **EDaN Community Transport**

Peter Williams: 01442 842506

# **Tap Dancing Class**

In Kensworth Tuesday evenings 7.30 - 8.30 **beginners** 8.00 - 9.00 with some experience Good fun and great exercise For details, phone Jenny 01582 872650



# Dunstable & District **Local History Society** Tuesday 10 March, 7.45pm

# **Poems with a Local Twist**

After the Society's annual meeting, local author Frank Batt will present a selection of his entertaining poems, including verses about Worthington Smith's problems with an ancient skeleton excavated at Caddington.

Methodist Church Hall, Dunstable Visitors always welcome £2

# The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996

# The Aylesbury Vale District Council Dogs (Fouling of Land) Order 2001

The Aylesbury Vale District Council (in this order called the Council) hereby make the following Order

- 1. The land described in the schedule below, being land in the area of the Council which is land to which the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 applies, is hereby designated pursuant to Section 2 of the said Act
- 2. This Order may be cited as the Aylesbury Vale District Council Dogs (Fouling of Land) Order 2001 and shall come into force on 1st June 2001

#### **SCHEDULE**

#### **Land Designated by Description**

- 1. All carriageways with a speed limit of 40 miles an hour or less and adjoining footpaths and verges
- 2. All parks, recreation grounds, sports grounds/pitches and open spaces owned, maintained and/or controlled by the District, Town or Parish Councils
- 3. Opened grassed areas located adjacent to areas of residential housing
- 4. Public rights of way in the said district as defined by the Rights of Way Definitive Map which can be seen at the County Hall
- 5. Canal towpaths and reservoir footpaths in the said District
- 6. Church yards and cemeteries in the said District
- 7. Pedestrianised areas in the said District
- 8. Allotments owned, maintained and/or controlled by the District, Town or Parish Councils
- 9. Public car parks owned, maintained and/or controlled by the Council

#### **Land Designated Specifically**

Maps for these areas can be seen at the Council offices at 66 High Street, Aylesbury; Meadow Walk, Buckingham; High St, Winslow.

1. Dagnall The village hall grounds

Ms R Christie, Head of Environmental Health Services, Aylesbury Vale District Council, PO Box 459, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 1YW.

Services at St Mary's Church

HOLY COMMUNIÓN 8.00am SUNDAYS ·

> PARISH SUNG HOLY COMMUNION 10.00am

On Third Sunday of each month:

10.00am - WORSHIP FOR EVERYONE a shorter, less formal service for families. (For anyone wishing to attend a service where Holy Communion is offered, there is a Family Communion at 10.30am at All Saints' Church, Dagnall, where visitors are assured of a warm welcome).

WEEK-DAYS:

Tuesday: 2.00pm TOTS (Tots on Tuesdays) (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)

Wednesday: 10.00am Holy Communion

EVERYONE WELCOME AT THESE SERVICES

# 10,000 for Christian Aidl

In the last 10 years the villagers of Moor End, Waterside, Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Northall and Dagnall have collect nearly £40,000 during Christian Aid Week. This is a splendid sum which has gone to help some of the world's poorest people. Can you help increase this figure even further? Every year we could benefit from having additional people to help with the door to door collection. Ouite a few streets are not covered - in Edlesborough: Swansons,

Summerlevs. Chiltern Avenue, High Street. In Eaton Bray: Totternhoe Rd, The Comp, Moor End Lane, Orchard Way, parts of High Rd, School Lane, The Meads, May Close, Poplar Farm, The Rye and parts of the Wallace estate. If you could collect from just a few houses, it would really help. Please contact Catherine 220527. This vear Christian Aid week starts 11 May.

# ppledown's Rescue Dog of the Month



Introducing Spike 1½ - 2 year-old Parson Russell. He is a great little character who loves a fuss and a cuddle. Spike is good with other dogs, housetrained and walks well on the lead. He is a lively little dog who

needs an active life in an experienced home. He cannot be rehomed in Luton. If you feel you could offer Spike, or any of our other dogs, a loving and secure home please call in at the kennels any day between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Our staff will be happy to offer advice and information. We have restrictions on rehoming dogs to families with children under 7 years of Reg Charity No. 1116848

age so please ask for details.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY! Join us on Saturday 21st March for our Motown Party to be held at Leighton Buzzard Football Club, Bell Close, Lake Street, Leighton Buzzard LU7 1RX from 8 p.m.- midnight. Fabulous Tamla Motown sounds to make you want to dance all night! Tickets £5 available from the kennels or the football club.

Appledown Rescue and Rehoming Kennels, Harling Road, Eaton Bray, Beds LU6 10Y.

Call 01525 220383 or e-mail: appledown.kennels@btinternet.com Visit our Website: www.appledownrescue.co.uk

# A Letter from Revid Coralie

Vicar: Coralie McCluskey

The Vicarage, 11 High Street, Eaton Bray - Tel: 01525 220261

**Honorary Assistant Priest: Revd John Heffer** 

Reader: Gordon Gray (220136)

Church Warden: Catherine Hayden (220527)

Email: admin@stmaryseatonbray.org.uk

www. stmaryseatonbray.org.uk



#### Making your lifestyle count: an environmental challenge part 2

I hope that you are now well into our environmental challenge and ready for the last 3 weeks. The same principle applies, you don't have to attempt every challenge, just one a week is better than none.

Week 4 – reducing waste and pollution

- Don't buy anything that has more than one wrapping (this is very difficult)
- Buy recycled products
- Use only biodegradable detergents
- Make the most of recycling bins
- Buy or use organic products (they can be expensive)

Week 5 – shopping thoughtfully

- · Buy only what you need
- Make a list before you shop
- Check those things you bought last year. How useful were they? Do they still have the original wrapper intact?
- Repair and reuse rather than replace

Week 6 – maintaining and increasing biodiversity

- Don't drop any kind of litter to avoid danger to wildlife
- Go litter picking
- Put up a bird box
- Create places for insects to hibernate in
- Plant wild flowers and native species in your garden
- Drive slowly on our country roads and watch out for animals

Included in this month's copy of FOCUS is the Easter Card for the four villages listing Holy Week and Easter services. I hope that you have good Easter weekend with time for family, friends or just a rest.

#### A thought for Easter

The great gift of Easter is hope - Christian hope which gives us that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake. (Basil Hume)



# arniv

# St Mary's Village Carnival

Would you like to lead the Carnival Procession and help open the Carnival on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July?

Are you aged between 8 and 12 years?

If so you could be the Carnival Queen or Princess we are looking for.

To take part all you have to do is complete and return an entry form (details below) and come along to Eaton Bray Village Hall on Sunday 19 April at 11.15am when a draw to select the Queen, Princess and two Attendants will take place.

#### **How to Enter**

Please telephone Tania Watkin on 01582 675610 for an entry form, or download a form from the Carnival website:

www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com

Entry forms should be returned to Tania by 12<sup>th</sup> April







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Enquiries - 01525 221630 Appointments - 01525 220333

www.edlesboroughsurgery.co.uk Dr J R Bell, Dr Heather Counsell

Dr Tisha Patel Dr Stephanie Johnston, Dr Kirsten Riemer

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# Keep OH The Grass

Lawns experience heavy use in the summer months and are battered by rain and snow throughout the winter months. At this time of year the grass can easily get damaged if walked on especially when a little frosty. There are however a number of jobs that can be done on the occasional dry or mild day, that can help lawns survive the winter and begin their preparation for rewarding you in the summer.

Although scarifying is usually more associated with the spring or autumn, a surface rake now can remove the build up of dead grass and other debris. If your lawn is mossy however, wait until spring when moss killers can be applied.

Lawn edges can be tidied up, with the aid of a half moon lawn cutter. Level lumps

by lifting turf and flattening soil, equally hollows can be filled by adding soil.

Whilst worms are generally great for the garden, their casts on lawns can spell bad news, (identified by little piles of mud) easily removed by sweeping with a broom. Puddles on the lawn mean that the ground is probably compacted. Aeration (driving a fork to a depth of about three inches) may be the answer. Do all the lawn if you can but if not concentrate on the worst areas.

If all this sound too much like hard work, then have a look through Focus to find a friendly local gardener.

# Top 10 Jobs in the Carden this Month

- 1. Protect new spring shoots from slugs
- 2. Plant shallots, onion sets and early potatoes
- 3. Plant summer-flowering bulbs
- 4. Lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials
- 5. Top dress containers with fresh compost
- 6. Mow the lawn on dry days (if needed)
- 7. Cut back Cornus (dogwood) and Salix (willow) grown for colourful winter stems
- 8. Weeds come back in to growth deal with them before they get out of hand
- 9. Start feeding fish and using the pond fountain; remove pond heaters
- 10. Open the greenhouse or conservatory doors and vents on warm days

# Eaton Bray Parish Council

# Highlights of the Meeting Minutes of Eaton Bray Parish Council Held on Monday 5th January 2015 from 7:30pm at the Coffee Tavern

#### **Central Beds Council (CBC)**

Website: www.centralbedfordshire.gov. uk - Customer Services: 0300 300 8302 / Email: customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

- School Closures due to bad weather: Keep up to date on which CBC schools are closed during bad weather on their website: http://www. centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/webApps/ SOS/cbc.aspx.
- Motorcycle Track: The Planning Committee Meeting for the Motocross Application is being held on the 14th January 2015, a representative from the Parish Council will be attending the meeting.

#### **Bedfordshire Police:**

REPORTED CRIME – YEAR TO DATE						
RECORDED CRIME						
Crime Type	01/12/13 to 31/12/13	01/12/14 to 31/12/14				
Violence against the Person	0	1				
Sexual Offences	0	0				
Domestic Burglary	0	0				
Burglary Other	0	1				
Vehicle Crime	0	0				
Other Theft	1	1				
Criminal Damage	0	2				
Drugs	0	1				
Total	1	6				

ASB INCIDENTS				
Anti-Social Behaviour	01/12/13 to 31/12/13	01/12/14 to 31/12/14		
Total	2	1		

News from the team: If you wish to contact your Local Policing Team then please call 01582 473411 or email LPT. LeightonBuzzardLinslade&Rural@

bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk.

#### Non-emergency call 101 All emergencies 999

#### **Speedwatch:**

Training for the Speedwatch volunteers was carried out on Saturday 6th December 2014; dates/timings for the campaign are being confirmed.

#### Ban On Hgv Vehicles Over 7.5 Tonnes Through Parish

Eaton Bray and Totternhoe Parish Council are to put forward an updated scheme to CBC; they have also contacted Bucks County Council regarding the placement of signage at the entrance roads to the villages and are awaiting a response.

#### **Football Pitches**

The Parish Council are in the process of

putting together Agreements with EB Lions on their usage and contributions to maintenance costs of the parish recreation grounds/greens.

# Planning Application CB/14/04055/OUT -

Land Off Totternhoe
Rd, Eaton Bray/Outline
Planning For 150 Dwellings
The Parish Council
objected to the above

planning application and sent their recommendations to Vicki Davies, Planning Officer, CBC.

To view the council's full response to the application please follow the link: www. ebpc.co.uk/letters/150109

# Next Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting:

Monday 2nd March 2015 from 7:30pm at The Coffee Tayern (1st floor)

#### **Parish Council Website:**

www.ebpc.co.uk

For full detailed copy of the minutes for Eaton Bray Parish Council please visit the Parish Council website.

A hard copy of minutes can also be viewed on the Parish Council's notice board at

The Coffee Tavern.

Follow Eaton Bray Parish Council on Facebook and Twitter

Keep up to date with what is going on in your parish

Email: clerk@ebpc.co.uk - Telephone/Fax: 01525 221464 - Website: www.ebpc.co.uk

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday/Friday 09:30-13:30hrs [messages can be left on answerphone]

# Edlesborough School

The school was founded in 1849 with funds provided by the Countess of Bridgewater of the Ashridge Estate. The single



are a number of pictures of this very stern looking gentleman in the school's archive.

The collection of the school's log books

gallery, still remains as the front part, together with a second classroom that was quickly added.

The crest of the Bridgewater family can clearly be seen on the front of the building

classroom, complete with fireplace and

clearly be seen on the front of the building along with the date of the extension, 1865. The school bell turret can also be seen, but the original brass bell now resides in the vestibule area.

At the back of the school is a very large English Heritage listed medieval pond that was the largest of a series of ponds linked to the moat and the tithe barn. The series of ponds was used to rear fish, moving them from one to the next until they were large enough to be in this, the biggest pond, from where they were caught for food. The pond is now maintained and used by the school for wildlife studies.

The school's first master was William Allison who, although on a temporary contract, remained for 46 years before retiring in 1901. He had an annual salary of £40 paid by the Ashridge estate. There

dating from 1874 give a wonderful picture of education in Victorian times with lots of references to illnesses such as typhoid and scarlet fever. Attendance also seemed to fluctuate with children being kept away to help harvest, pick plums or straw plait. The logs show school inspections also happened in those days with the inspectors writing their comments (sometimes not too polite!!) directly into the log books. A far cry from the OFSTED inspections of today!!

# St Mary's 100 Club

Congratulations to the following winners:

#### February 2015

1st Prize – Dorothy Bradbury 2nd Prize – Graham Chappell 3rd Prize – David Mann

If you would like to join the 100 Club please collect a form from www. stmaryseatonbray.org.uk/Groups/100-club or from St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray.

# Edlesborough Parish Council News

# Including Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall the proposed development.

#### McCann Homes & DLP Planning

On the 21st January DLP Planning and McCann homes held a Public Exhibition to share their proposed plans for land in the village of Edlesborough. The exhibition was well attended and Parishioners had the opportunity to speak to both the planners and members of the Parish Council. Many

Parishioners took the time to complete a questionnaire for the Parish Council; what follows is an analysis of Public

Parish Council. Many	the village.				
	Support	Oppose	Undecided	Totals	
Parish residents – single name	6	120	9		
Parish residents – joint(2) names		4	2		
Anonymous		7	1		
Out of Parish residents (predominantly	1	17			
Eaton Bray residents)					
Totals	7 (4%)	148 (89%)	12 (7%)	167	
A diviste d Tetals	C (40/)	120 (070/)	12 (00/)	147	

#### Consultation Questionnaires:

- A total of 167 questionnaires were returned relating to the McCann proposal to build 75 houses on land off the High Street opposite the School. 7 (4%) supported the proposal, 148 (89%) opposed it and 12 (7%) were undecided.
- The adjusted total after allowing for questionnaires in joint names and eliminating those from out of Parish residents or that were anonymous was 147 of which 6 (4%) were in support, 128 (87%) opposed and 13 (9%) were undecided.
- The most frequent comments related to the number of new houses proposed and the consequential effect on the local infrastructure and services.
- The capacity of the local school and GP surgery to cope with the additional demand, the worsening of the existing sewerage and drainage problems and the additional traffic congestion/parking problems were the predominant concerns. Those same concerns were also expressed by some of those that were undecided or expressed support for

#### The Budget and Precept

At the January Parish Council meeting Councillors agreed to the Budget for 2015/16. As a result of this budget the Parish Council agreed a Precept of £88,770.00 together with the grant of £1,230.00 giving a total Precept of £90,000.00 which has now been formally forwarded to AVDC.

A smaller but still significant number of people expressed concern about the

loss of AAL green space. A significant

number of residents were also concerned

that a single development of this size would adversely affect the character of

#### Communication

The Parish Council have asked the EDaN Steering Group to initiate an update to the Parish Plan. Parishioners will be consulted on a range of issues and will be invited to propose future projects.

All parishioners are welcome to attend the monthly meetings and are invited to ask questions, make suggestions and raise issues during the Open Forum at the start of the meeting.

Other ways of communicating with the Councillors are by telephoning or emailing the Parish Clerk (details below) or by using the Parish Council Facebook page to raise issues or ask questions. The Parish Council also posts information on to the Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/EDANParishCouncil

#### **New Pavilion**

Councillors have now agreed to the plans for the New Pavilion on Edlesborough Green and the architect has been instructed to apply for planning permission.

# **Cow Lane development**

The Parish Council submitted a further objection to this development as a result of a change to the site layout. This may be viewed on the AVDC Planning website http://eplanning.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/applications/planning\_details.htm under the application number

14/01261/APP dated 20 Jan 2015.

Parking on white lines

The Parish Council will continue with its efforts to remind all parishioners not to park on white lines. These have been placed in key locations in Edlesborough to aid the safety of pedestrians, road users and in some places to aid people with wheelchairs or motorised scooters.

Edlesborough Parish Council Meeting

This next meeting will be held at Edlesborough Memorial Hall on Thursday 19th March 2015, commencing at 7:30pm. Minutes of previous meetings can be found on the website www.edlesborough-pc.gov. uk

#### **Contact Information**

Clerk to Edlesborough Parish Council:

Clerk: Penny Pataky 01525 229358

Email: clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk Manager of Edlesborough Memorial Hall,

Pavilion, Playground & Green: Penny Pataky 01525 229358

Email: manager@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk <u>Responsible Finance Officer/Planning to</u> Edlesborough Parish Coun<u>cil:</u>

Lin Sargeant: 01525 220859

Email: rfo@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk
Website: www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/

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# Edlesbray Leisure Fellowship (ELF)

Hello Everyone,

Our first meeting of 2015 took place at the Coffee Tayern on th 29th January.

It was an enjoyable one and very nice to meet again. We again discussed the Agenda for 2015 and enjoyed the usual refreshments.

There has been another change to the dates when the walking group meets.

The 2nd Monday in the Month was not suitable for all the people who usually meet and therefore it has been changed to the 3rd MONDAY IN THE MONTH.

Apologies go to anyone who met at the Church on the 9th March. It was too late to alter the entry in the February Focus. The March walk will now be on the 16th.

A report will also appear in the April issue coffee tavern 10.00a.m.

A report will be in the April Focus.

on our first Lunch Out on March 12th at The Bridgewater Arms. We look forward to that

On 25th March our first outing takes place. Alan is arranging a visit to Bentley Priory. It is the Head Quarters of Fighter Command for the Battle of Britain.

All are welcome to join in, there will be transport available. Meet at The Coffee Tavern at 10.00 a.m. when transport will be sorted out. It should be a very Interesting trip. (Ring Alan on 220972 if interested.) The cost is £7.00.

The report will be in the April Focus.

#### **March Dates**

Monday 16th Walk from Eaton Bray Church 10.00 a.m.

Wed. 25th visit to Bentley Priory. meet at coffee tavern 10.00a.m.



# Can You Spare Some Time to Help the Club?

Calling all parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, big brothers, sisters and football fans one and all... EB Lions needs your help as we grow.

With some 28 teams and over 300 signed up players there's a lot that goes into making our local village club a success. Running a club of this size requires a lot of time and effort both by the coaches and the committee, all of which is volunteered for the benefit of your kids and the community.

To help spread the load we would like to offer you the chance to help the club, nothing too onerous or time consuming and many of the tasks can be shared. We would very much appreciate any volunteers coming forward for these supporting tasks, or if you wish to discuss further we are happy to outline in more detail.

EB lions Award Day 6th June 2015

- Help in setting up the event on Thursday and Friday evening and Saturday morning.
- Help in clearing up Saturday evening and possibly Sunday morning.
- Working Group, as this event gets bigger each year we now need to plan in advance, therefore we need people please to join a small Working Group consisting of a couple of hours each month up to the day itself, in organising and planning the event.

#### Team Administration

Some of our teams already have parents who help manage the administration in running a team. This does not require knowledge of football and are primarily simple tasks as responding to emails, collecting/confirming team information

and in most cases it is helping the coaching team, taking this extra workload off of them so they can coach. We anticipate this taking one to two hours a month during the playing season and both before and after the playing season, one hour a month.

#### **Assistant Coaches**

We are always on the lookout for help with training sessions and on match day and this is where our assistant coaches are invaluable. We are particularly proud to support many of our older players studying GCSE or A level PE who choose coaching as part of their qualification or D of E participants looking to support a community project. We'll even help in funding your level 1 coaching qualification if you want to take things further. So if you fancy helping out our coaches, or training to become one, do let us know.

#### **Sponsorship**

Currently sponsorship is mainly organised by the coaches with administration done by the committee. This year we have some great plans for expanding sponsorship, not only for teams but the club as a whole and ideally prior to the start of the next season. Therefore if you could spare very roughly a couple of hours a month from April to October in helping to speak to sponsors, organise the invoices and prepare the sponsors mementos for their sponsorship.

#### Coaches, Referees & Linesmen admin

We have established a program to financially support and develop our older players into referees as well as coaches into qualified FA licensed coaches. Some teams also need Linesmen for their matches, again we are looking how we can manage his rather than bend the arms of parents at the match. We therefore need

someone to co-ordinate the administrative side of this, keeping track of qualifications, training attended and courses coming up as well as keeping the lists up to date of available people. We anticipate one to two hours a month mainly during the playing season.

#### Grants

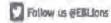
The club tries to keep registration fees down by sponsorship as well as grants and other external funding, to this end we need someone who could spend one hour a month, looking for and submitting for grant funding for both the ongoing running of the club as well key projects. Finally, we have a plethora of parents with **skills**, **knowledge and experience**. If you have a "trade" that you feel would be help the club and your kids, and you are prepared to help now and again, we would love to have in our back pocket this wealth or knowledge that we could call upon when needed especially with some challenging projects in the future.

If you are interested in helping, then please contact Steve Moren at vicechair@ eblions.co.uk

Again any help you can provide is greatly appreciated.

Thanks for your support

# www.eblions.co.uk

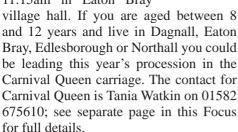






# St Mary's Village Carnival 2015 Carnival Queen 2015

This year's Carnival Queen and attendants will be chosen by draw on Sunday 19th April at 11:15am in Eaton Bray



Here is another reminder for local businesses, schools, youth groups, and organisations that might want to support the Carnival and have their organisation promoted during this event. Here's how:

 Advertising in the Carnival Programme
 delivered to all the households in Dagnall, Eaton Bray, Edlesborough and Northall.

- Advertising in the arena.
- Have a float in the Carnival procession.
- Have a stall at the

Carnival.

4th July 2015

- Donating a prize for the Grand Draw.
- Donating a prize for the Silent Auction. All details of Carnival 2015 including how to book a stall, arrange advertising, offer prizes and much more can be found on the Carnival website:

# www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com

For any specific questions or if you would like to get involved with organisation of the carnival either by helping for a few hours on the day or providing assistance in the months before July contact Gordon Gray on 01525 220136 or through the carnival website.

# Trevor Lunnon Memories of a Local Bobby



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Trev on February 1st, after a long battle with

Parkinson's disease. Many of you will remember Trev as the local bobby for many years, and as a milkman after he left the police. Here are just a few memories from his family.

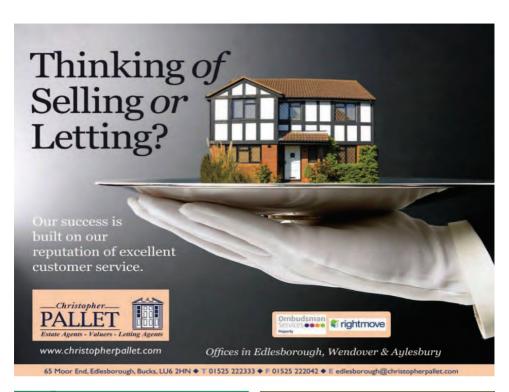
Trey was born in May 1951 opposite the Bell pub, and Edlesborough church, and attended Edlesborough School until he was 11, when he transferred to Linslade Secondary, staying there until he was 16. He always had a mischievous side, and thought nothing as a toddler of taking a hammer to his brand new pedal car, or throwing used batteries in an open fire to see if they would explode (they did). Later, as a teenager, and the proud owner of a new 22 air rifle, he thought nothing of shooting his brother in the ankle to see if it hurt ( it did ). However, despite this mischievous side, he was always single minded in his determination to join the police when he left school. This was a dream that was almost derailed before it got off the ground, as he was caught drinking shandy, of all things, in the Prince of Wales pub when he was 15. Thankfully, he only received a caution, and did join the Thames Valley cadets in 1967, and after 3 years as a cadet, passed all his exams with flying colours, and became a regular bobby in 1970, at the age of 19. He was initially stationed at Thame, and was there for 2 years, where he lodged with Beate King. In 1972, he married Steph, and they set up home in the police house in Cheddington. It was from this point

on that he nurtured his long association with the local villages, and in particular. Edlesborough, Northall, and Dagnall, after his posting to the Ivinghoe office in 1974. In 1977, Trev and Steph bought a house in Leighton Buzzard, where he remained until his death. It was during their early years here that they had their children Kate and Joe. There are many memories of Trev and the police force, but maybe one that sticks is when he had to do occasional duties at Chequers, the Prime Ministers country home, and when Margaret Thatcher was PM how friendly she was to the police, and how she would always take time to talk to them.

Trev's final 4 years with the police were spent as a court liaison officer at Aylesbury Crown Court, which was an ideal way of easing him towards retirement after the demands of three decades of front line policing. On retirement from the police in 2004 he became one of the local milkmen, a role which suited his naturally gregarious nature. He was therefore very saddened when the effects of Parkinson's disease forced him to give this up in 2006. Trev was very active with All Saints Church in Leighton Buzzard, and was the church warden for many years, giving much of his free time to the busy schedules of the church.

The family would like to express their thanks for the many cards, and messages of sympathy that they have received.







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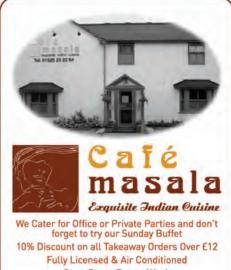


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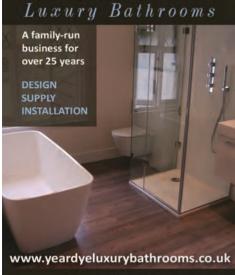
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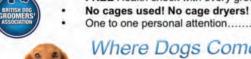
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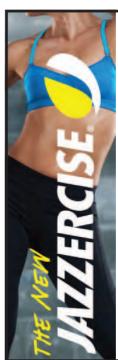




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# **Edlesborough School**

Grandparents Open Afternoon – January 2015

Edlesborough School opened its doors to our children's grandparents on Friday 16 January. The children had the opportunity to play traditional games with their grandparents, or teach them some of the games they play in school, which are Literacy or Numeracy based. It also gave





the opportunity for the children to show their grandparents their class work within their books or on display.

We would like to thank the grandparents who were able to visit and we very much look forward to seeing you again next year!

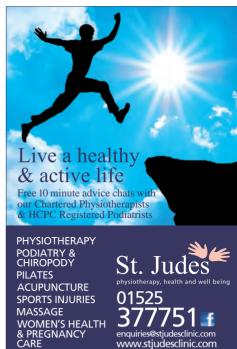
# **Curtain Call Theatre Group's Panto**

See article on page 62





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### ?

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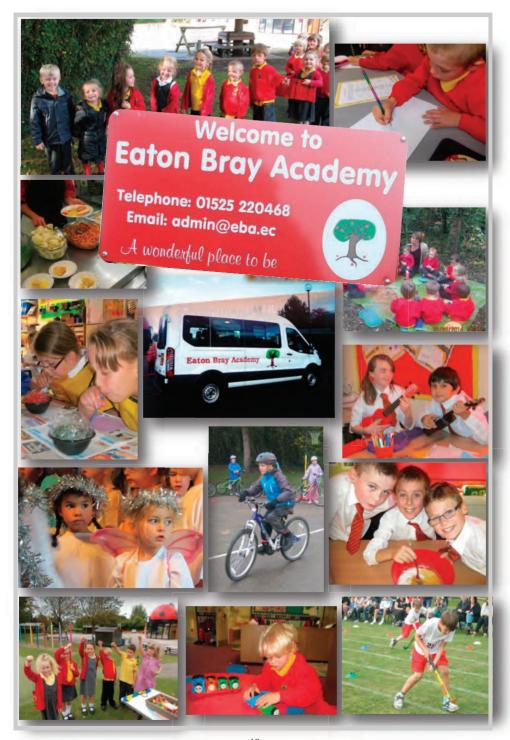
7.00pm for 7.30pm



Just £9 per person. Teams of up to 8 people Fabulous prizes!

This event is organised jointly by Eaton Bray Village Hall Fundraising Committee and Eaton Bray Tennis Club

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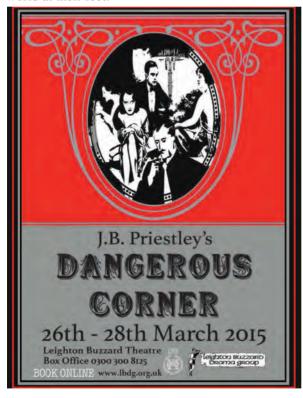
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### **Bravo!**

Dagnall School entered the Cottesloe Family Sports Dance Festival and came first! Well done to Hartley, Lucy, Alex, Bhay, Bodien and Cody.

They showed different feelings and emotions through dance to "When I Grow Up" from the musical Matilda. They had a fun afternoon out in a real dance studio meeting and working with other children from local schools too. Next stop the Buckingham Sports Partnership Dance Extravaganza at the end of March!





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### Dagnall Village Hall 100 Club

#### Winners, Feb 2015

129 Val and Peter Barrow £50 87 Catherine Harris £25

102 SR and Mrs IA Castledine £25

We have finished the 100 Club year for 2014/15 and in March, we will be collecting memberships again for the next year.

We have raised £624, having paid out £600 in prizes to 18 winners.

Thank you for your support, the Village Hall (and Recreation Ground) would not be available to

our community without your generosity. Please call Sharon Quinn on 01442 842129 or speak to a Village Hall Committee Member to renew your membership (or join for the first time this year).



### Community Choir Goodbye "Vicar of Dibley"

Our Community Choir is now 5 years old and has certainly blossomed into a much admired group of singers, with a large and varied repertoire from 16th century English folk songs and major choral works to Beatles and Troggs.

The original steering group have enjoyed bringing the Choir to present levels by largely employing "The Vicar of Dibley" style of management. However, with new top class musical director and accompanist having been installed, it is felt that a more professional approach might be more appropriate. We, therefore, enter our 6th. year with new members of the steering group and in a very strong position to begin to further fulfill the ambitions of our more able members with extra concerts etc. under consideration

We have now become full members of The National Association of Choirs and are in the process of setting up our own website. So you can probably understand why it is felt apposite to say "Goodbye" to "Vicar of Dibley" and "Hello" to "Army Wives". Those of you who were able to get in to our "sell out" Christmas Concert will have some idea of our capabilities and, with thanks for generosity of all contributors,

a substantial amount was raised for the "Make Some Noise" charity.

Please keep an eye on Focus for future charity concert dates.



### Faton Bray Bell Tower Update



The planned restoration/renovation of our Eaton Bray bells is now complete and the consensus is that they are now far less challenging and a pleasure to ring.

The work took far longer than the originally anticipated 2 week interlude, taking 3 full weeks to complete. Our sincere thanks to the following who volunteered their expertise, not to mention countless hours, to see the work through - Richard Booth, Bob Deeley, Delroy Gray, Gordon Gray,

The state of the s

Richard Stroud and Charles Thorogood. By all accounts the representative from Taylor's Bell Foundry also went 'above and beyond' to see the project through.

Sunday service ringing recommenced on February 8th. Coralie marked the occasion by joining us in the tower to read a special prayer/blessing. Regular EB ringing practice resumed on February 11th and will continue on the second Wednesday of the month, 7:30-9:00 pm.

On behalf of John Plater (Tower Captain - 01525 221095) and the Eaton Bray ringing team.

(Photos courtesy of Richard Booth)



### 粉

### The National Trust South Beds Assn

Wednesday 4 March A Touch of Glass:

A Victorian Lantern Show

Gordon Casbeard & Tony Brown Magic Lantern Society Members

7:45pm Salvation Army Centre, Bull Pond Lane, Dunstable Visitors are welcome at £1

For further information phone 01582 527790



### Effectorough School Mrs Molly Turner (1945 – 2015)

he VOII may aware Mrs Turner sadly awav passed Sunday on 11th January after short illness

Mrs Turner had worked at Edlesborough School for a number of years, teaching hundreds of our children. Even after being sent off from the school field in a hot air balloon, along with Mrs Hyde as part of their joint retirement, Molly returned to work shortly after this grand event, as a cover teacher for many of our staff.

I, like others, had the privilege of working very closely with Molly for a number of years, a teacher whose zest for life and warm smile was infectious to all those around her. Her caring nature and great sense of humour made her an incredibly popular member of staff; no matter how busy she was Molly always had time for a friendly chat or to offer some advice. Her shared love of Michael Palin saw her retell many tales of her own travels with pupils and staff alike, and her passion for books inspired many of our children with their own reading and writing.

Molly will be greatly missed by those who knew and worked with her. She was the inspirational teacher who children loved being taught by, and the type of teacher as adults, we wish we had been taught by. As a school community we will miss her greatly. Molly was not only a great teacher but also a great friend to all those who knew her. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this time.

### Eaton Bray Methodist Church

Our vear has started on an upbeat note. Greg Obong-Ohotse took our first service in the new year, taking as his theme 'the harvest of Christmas', Jesus' unique life and ministry which rescued mankind from darkness. Our Cafe Worship on January 11th, led by Steve Jones, was interesting and thought-provoking as we had to ask ourselves 'When does life begin?' and 'When does faith begin?' Unsurprisingly we came up with no definitive answers but could agree that the challenge we always face is to show the love of God throughout our lives. On 18th January Joan Gregory asked us to consider how we listened to the voice of God. She reminded us that we have to learn to listen. One of her conclusions was a famous quote: 'Faith begins as an experiment and ends as an experience". Our annual Covenant Service and Communion, led by Rev Andy Melvin, took place on January 25th. This is the time when each Methodist Church reaffirms its commitment to God. Andy urged us to define what the focus of our year would be and suggested that we should make a conscious effort to 'let go of the steering-wheel and allow God to make the decisions'. If we manage to do that, the year ahead should be a fascinating and uplifting one.

**Dates for your Diary:** Cafe Community on Saturday 14 March 2015, 11.00am - 1.00pm. We will be delighted to see you if you come to join us for a cup of tea or coffee and/or a light lunch. There will be a Craft Stall with handiwork by Celia James and June Jarrett.

### Walking on Sunching Elle Laird - The Panto Princess

After months of planning and rehearsing, hours of set painting and dress making, out of tune singing becoming (nearly!) pitch perfect and thousands of Jack's magic beans being counted into paper bags, it was curtain up for Curtain Call's annual pantomime. This year saw the story of Jack and the Beanstalk come to life with our very own climbing beanstalk, a panto cow, a delightful Dame and the cast singing Let It Go more times than my four year old does in an hour - and that's going some!! The sold out audience were entertained from start to finish and were certainly left hanging on the edge of their seats (you had to be there for that!) and it was the groups largest production to date. Thank you so much to the amazing cast and the children that joined us from the Youth Theatre that all put so much time and energy into every aspect. Special thanks also to the following local businesses that donated raffle prizes:

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Most of all thank you to the people in the villages that made our first pantomime in our new home of Eaton Bray Village Hall such a success. We really appreciate the support and look forward to continuing to entertain you! Our next production will be 'Deadlier Still' a Murder Mystery which will be held at the end of May and you can also look forward to our upcoming Quiz Night - watch this space for dates and ticket information.

You can find more details of the group on our website www.curtaincalltheatregroup. co.uk or like us on Facebook and Twitter. We are always happy to welcome new members whether you fancy being in the spotlight on stage or helping behind the scenes. Pop along on a Monday evening at 8pm to Eaton Bray Village Hall or contact the membership secretary Tiffany Campbell-Smith curtaincalltheatregrouplb@live.co.uk.

Photo on page 35

### All Saints Church, Dagnall Services in March 2015

Sun. 1st Mar. 9.00 am Eucharist

10.30 am Morning Service

Sun. 8th Mar. 10.30 pm Morning Service Sun. 15th Mar. 10.30 am Family Communion Sun. 22nd Mar. 10.30 am Family Service Sun. 29th Mar. 10.30 am Informal Worship

Fri. 3rd April 6.00 pm Special Service for Good Friday

**Easter Day** 

Sun. 5th April 9.00 am Eucharist

10.30 am Family Service

Sunday School meets each Sunday at 10.30 am except when there is a Family Service.



### TO MEN

### Edlesborough W.l.

At our first meeting of the New Year we welcomed both our new president, Jenny Foale, and our new

committee which consisted of experienced and novice members.

Our speakers for the evening were husband and wife team, Mark and Jacky Bloomfield, who gave a presentation on Kenya's Masai Mara. Not only did they give an excellent talk but also showed wonderful photographs which were accompanied by interesting stories of the wild life in that vast region.

Time passed very quickly as we heard about the migration of around one and a half million wildebeests, which takes place annually during May and June. There are so many wildebeests in the column that it

is over 15 miles long. The crossing of the Mara River is indeed a truly remarkable sight. Not only do the wildebeests have to negotiate the steep banks in order to cross at traditional points they then have to enter the fast, deep and extremely cold water, where enemies such as hippos and crocodiles wait in anticipation.

As well as the wildebeests the migration on the grasslands also includes hundreds of thousands of Burchell's zebra and Thomson's gazelle. With such an abundance of manure the savannah is indeed well looked after.

The talk also included fascinating stories about large cats, elephants and poachers. A truly worthwhile talk with superb photographs and interesting anecdotes.



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shares his advice with you.

In these cash strapped times, when the pennies don't seem to stretch as far, it's always important to make sure you're getting the things you need at the best possible prices.

We all know there are ways of ensuring you bag a bargain. Shopping around is of course the most effective way. internet has allowed many of us to become experts in this.

It should always be remembered though that sometimes, paying the least amount for something is not always the best policy. So When SHOULD you pay as much as you can afford?

Life is sadly, all too short. The years seem to whiz by at ever increasing speed. When you face up to this, you realise that sometimes it's worth paying a little bit more for a product or service. Is it really worth buying a TV from an online company you've never heard of when you can spend £30 more to buy it from a well-respected high street retailer with a good record of customer service? I would suggest not! When that TV breaks several months down the line, do you really want to spend weeks of your short life, arguing with and struggling to communicate with the lesser known internet company? Was the £30 saving really worth it? No! Remember this, next time you go out of your way to save a little bit of money – It's often simply not worth it.

actively spend as MUCH money as you can. The most obvious example of this is when buying a bed. My motto is, spend as much money as you can possibly afford on your bed. But why would I say such a crazy thing when there are so many companies selling beds at craaaaazy low prices? Simple! You normally get what you pay for where beds are concerned. If you buy a king size bed with a mattress for £100, you'll almost certainly get a rubbish bed with springs that will stick in your back for years to come. Well I say years. it will probably only last a couple of years before it completely falls apart. You spend a third of your short life in bed, so always stretch yourself and spend as much as you can. When you're still sinking under the duvet in supreme comfort 8 years down the line, you'll be grateful you did.

10 years ago, when I worked Northampton (home of the World's best shoe makers), I bought a pair of £300 shoes. What? I hear you shout! You're mad! Well, 10 years later, I still wear them several times a week. They polish up like new and are the most comfortable shoes I've ever owned. I think they'll last me so long, I'll end up wearing them in my coffin. For me, that was £300 well spent and actually when you look at the cost over many years, they weren't really that expensive. A false economy would have been a pair of £40 shoes that fell apart after 6 months.

In a nutshell, when you need quality and longevity, you should always look to spend as much as you can afford to. It's also worth noting that in legal terms, the more you spend on a product, the more you can expect from it. As a consumer, you can legally expect a £3000 bed to last There are also times when you should far longer than a £300 bed. If something goes wrong and the retailer refuses to consumer, just help, the fact you spent a considerable ALWAYS so! amount will add weight to your case in front of the judge.

So next time you decide that bargain hunting is the best policy of the savvy consumer, just remember, it isn't ALWAYS so!



### EDaN Community Transport Scheme

Community Car Service for Dagnall, Northall and Edlesborough



We shall be holding a "Thank You" meeting for all the wonderful people who drive on a voluntary basis for the

EDaN Community Car Scheme. These drivers go out of their way to volunteer their services, primarily for Dagnall, Edlesborough and Northall. They do an amazing job and provide a lifeline for many villagers who have lost the use of their car and have no other way of getting to their medical appointments, shopping or just to visit a friend. The meeting will be on Tuesday 12th May starting at 7pm at the Red Lion in Dagnall and all our drivers are very welcome to attend. We would also like to invite anyone who might be thinking about volunteering to drive for EDaN, all your petrol costs are refunded to you and plenty of notice is given for a journey, which you are obviously able to refuse if you are not able to drive on that particular occasion.

If you are a new villager wishing to book a journey for the first time, could you please register your details in good time with Peter Williams on 01442 842506.

I would also like to gently remind all our existing passengers that Peter must have 48hours notice of an intended trip to be able to give the drivers adequate notice, at certain times it can also be quite difficult to book a driver who can do that journey for lots of different reasons.

If you would like to find out more about

becoming a volunteer driver for EDaN or just helping if we get any snow, please give me a call, Kathy, on, 01442 842796 or 07790 537032.



If you would like to book a trip with Community Transport please call Peter Williams on 01442 842506.

### London Luton Airport

With an increase in aircraft in the area and in particular when the wind is from the East, we are getting some aircraft flying directly over the village to join the flight path into the airport. If you are disturbed by the traffic flying over the village, there is a complaints hotline number: 01582395382. This is an airport number where you can register your concerns. It is important to do this if we are to reduce these disturbances over our village.

If you need to complain about Heathrow flight noise the number is 0800 344 844. Email: noise\_complaints@heathrow.com

### Effectorough Book Group Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie



This month we read Americanah, the third novel by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, the young Nigerian writer already famous for her award winning books Purple Hibiscus and Half of a Yellow Sun.

Americanah is the name by which a Nigerian is known after he or she has been to America and has been indoctrinated by the way of life there. If emelu is an example of this. As a young girl growing up in Nigeria she is aware of the political unrest under the political dictatorship there and that people are leaving their homeland to try to make better lives for themselves elsewhere. Whilst a young student she meets and falls in love with Ibenze, the son of a professor, who also dreams of a life away from strikes and military unrest. Although their love for one another is strong, circumstances force them apart. Ifemelu gains a scholarship to America and Obinze promises to join her there in a few years. Alas, their communication breaks down and Ifemelu makes her own way in a country which proves to be hugely different from her idealised picture of it, mostly formed by television and magazines. She learns to adapt herself, but grows increasingly angry at the difference in treatment between black and white people. The intolerance she sees and the difficulties that she encounters, form the basis for a blog that she starts to publish. It

becomes very popular and helps to make her successful.

Obinze on the other hand tries to establish himself in England. He soon finds it almost impossible to get work or accommodation without the appropriate papers. Eventually, in desperation, he is persuaded to enter into a marriage of convenience, which goes disastrously wrong and he is deported.

Finally, Ifemelu although successful in America, returns to Nigeria and is re united with Obinze, who by now is married and a wealthy dealer in real estate. They share a passion for their home country and are sure their shared experiences and beliefs will help them to improve its future.

Adichie is a talented writer and is obviously a staunch feminist. Her views on racial discrimination are vividly stated in the blogs she has given Ifemelu and which are printed in the book. In our group discussion, we found these got a little tedious and we also thought the book was overlong and spoilt by too little editing. It was a powerful story, very well told, but we thought it was not as good as the previous two novels, which we recommend. A film is in production, with Lupita Nyong'o and David Oyelowo in the leading roles. That should be very good.

### Dagnall Over Strifes

Dagnall Over Sixties enjoyed their lunch at The Red Lion in Dagnall on Feb 17th. A Quiz held after lunch puzzled their brains with cryptic clues to titles of shows, films and musicals.

This month March 17th we have Bingo in the village hall with Chrissie Smith.

On April 21st we have an outing to The Green Man for lunch followed by a visit to Poplars Garden Centre.

To join the Club please call Rosemary on 01442843202.

Anyone over sixty is very welcome to join. Please call Rosemary 01442 843202.



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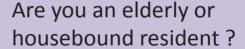
Contact Kevin on 01525 220948 07949 601630

brayscape@aol.com

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Children clearly benefit and thrive as the accommodation, equipment and resources are well suited for their purpose and conducive to learning. Improvements to the premises and the outdoor area give children the confidence to explore and help all aspects of their development. Ofsted 2012

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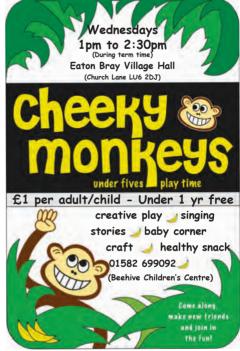




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Children are consistently offered a stimulating range of activities and opportunities which enable them to make good progress towards the Early Learning Goals.

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Staff support children well and encourage them to be active in their learning and to think critically.

We are a committee run playgroup operating five mornings a week 9:15 – 12:15 for children aged 2 to school age.

If you would like to find out if your child would be happy here, please phone our Playgroup Leader, Ann Tobin on 07816 358 342.

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## Priends of Ashridge

**Annual Spring Fair** 

The annual Spring Plant Fair run by the Friends of Ashridge will take place on Sunday 10th Mav 2015 raising funds for the National Trust at the Ashridge Estate. Come along and this support event



name, colour and size. It is a real bonus if the plant is in flower, but if not, a picture or photo helps to inform the purchaser of its qualities.

The Fair is run entirely by Friends of Ashridge volunteers, and is able

which brings together local residents and expert private growers from the county. It is an ideal opportunity to purchase an excellent choice of quality plants for a worthy cause. Please contact The Friends of Ashridge Estate (details below) if you too can donate spare plants from your garden or if you wish to become a grower for the Spring Fair.

The Spring Plant Fair will be held on 10 May 2015, 11am till 4pm at the National Trust Ashridge Visitor Centre, Monument Drive, Ringshall HP4 1LX.

All donated plants from the public will raise money exclusively for the upkeep of the Ashridge Estate. This includes maintenance of the mobility vehicles and access paths, and fence repairs and improvements. The volunteer team accept any number or variety of plants - most commonly we receive perennials, grasses, and shrubs. Vegetables prove especially popular and we would like to encourage those with a greenhouse to grow things for us, for example, tomatoes, runner beans, squashes or courgettes. The trick is to get the timing right! We also would like to receive more unusual or prized plants such as peonies as the better the plant, the more we can charge! We ask that the plants are healthy and established in clean pots and come clearly labelled including to raise thousands in funds for essential works at Ashridge and the upkeep of the estate. Ashridge is ours to enjoy and needs to be continually nurtured with the right resources to ensure that such a beautiful, ancient site of natural woodland is preserved for future generations. Please come along and contribute to the annual Spring Plant Fair, either as a grower or purchaser, or both!

There is a lively commercial sector supporting the event with small nurseries from the local area representing all three counties in which Ashridge is situated. They will be selling unusual hardy perennials, specialist clematis, border plants, roses, herbs and more. All stallholders kindly donate some of their proceeds to the Friends of Ashridge Estate. The fair is situated at the National Trust Ashridge Estate Visitor Centre, Monument Drive, Ringshall, HP4 1LX and parking is free of charge. There is no entry fee.

To donate any plants, become a grower or to find out further information, please contact John Cartwright on 01442 864 984. Last date for plant donations is Thursday 7th May 2015. Pots and compost can be provided. Assistance can also be provided with potting up and transportation. Please give generously.

## Take a Walk Dunstable – Blow's Down – Caddington

#### 6½ Miles 3¼ Hours

**Location and Parking** Use any car park in Dunstable although Church Street would be the most convenient, (pay and display).

Grid Reference TL019219

Ordnance Survey Explorer Map no 193, Landranger Map no 166.

Facilities All facilities available close by in the town.

**Start** The crossroads in the town centre where the A505 joins the A5.

**Description** A stiff slope up onto the Downs close to the start, otherwise fairly level. Some stiles and gates, the route is easy to follow on downland, field edges and well surfaced bridleways.

#### The Walk

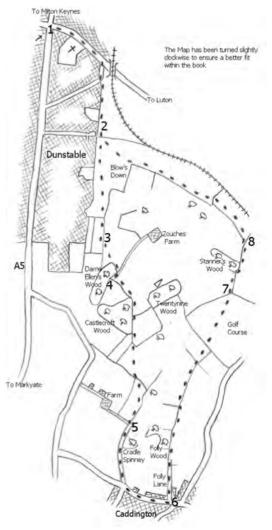
- 1 Walk east along Church Street past Priory Road; just before the railway bridge turn right into Station Road. Go up to the corner and turn slight left to the Icknield Way signpost, take the path ahead through the undergrowth at the backs of the houses. Bear right of the first pylon, go under the second pylon and continue to the green metal gate where the road from the right ends.
- 2 Continue ahead through the wooden kissing gate at the signpost pointing to Caddington and bear right along the path right of the pylons. Level with the first pylon, fork left up the (unmarked), less well used path rising diagonally upslope, passing a marker post and left of the next pylon. At the top of the slope carry on with the fence to the left, through the kissing gate and the bushes.
- 3 Turn left through the hedge gap at the marker post and continue the original direction with the hedge now right. Bear left with the field edge past the end of Dame Ellen's Wood and turn right along the tarmac farm road to the marker post.
- 4 Take the field edge to the left, with the hedge on the right bearing right, down to the corner. Bear left through the gap and turn right, down the field edge parallel to the telegraph poles. Go through the wide gap at the marker post and carry on ahead over the field still close to the telegraph poles. Continue through the boundary and bear left on the track across the grass, at the field edge bear right down to the corner, go through the gate and down the steps to the hedged bridleway.
- 5 Turn left and immediate right along the wide sunken track with overhanging trees and carry on to the road at the edge of Caddington village. Take the roadside path left to Folly Lane and turn left.
- 6 Continue straight on when the tarmac road stops, along the field edge with Folly Wood to the left. At the narrow hedge gap turn left, then right to continue direction with the hedge now to the right. In the corner go through the wooden barrier and keep ahead across the golf course, cross a stony road and bear left (carefully) over a fairway. Carry on past a marker post up to the wooden barrier in the top corner and out of the golf course.
- 7 Maintain direction along the right hand field edge, past the end of Stanner's Wood; carry on with the hedge still left and bear left at the marker post down the narrow tunnelled path through the kissing gate to the marker post.

8 Turn left on the path along the top of Blow's Down, bear left of the marker post with the hedge and the fence to the left; step over the stile and continue ahead on the higher path past marker posts and through a kissing gate. At an unmarked point, fork right downhill to the bottom corner close to the information board at point 2 and retrace the route back into Dunstable and the starting point.

#### **Background Information**

Dunstable Priory was the location of an event to have far reaching effects on English history. At a court held there on 23rd May 1533 Thomas Cranmer annulled the marriage of King Henry VIII and Katherine of Aragon. Cranmer had been Archbishop of Canterbury for only a few weeks, he had been a surprise choice for the job having held no important positions in the church. He owed much to his friendship with the Boleyn family and Henry's belief that he would support his petition.

The Priory was also the site of an overnight stop in the funeral cortege of Eleanor of Castile (1241-1290), the wife of King Edward I. The couple married in 1254 and enjoyed an unusually happy relationship in what had been a dynastically arranged



marriage. Eleanor always travelled with Edward during his various journeys; she was with him on a crusade from 1270-1274 and gave birth to the future Edward II at Caernarfon while on campaign in Wales.

She died in Harby, Nottinghamshire, in November 1290. Her body was carried in solemn procession to Westminster Abbey for internment. The funeral cortege stopped overnight on twelve occasions; Edward later had a cross erected at each of these locations in commemoration of his late wife. Nothing survives of the Cross at Dunstable although a new modernistic statue of the queen has been placed in the Queen Eleanor Shopping Centre.

There were three other crosses in the immediate area at St Albans, Woburn and Stony Stratford. Only three crosses survive, at Waltham Cross, Northampton and the best preserved at Geddington in Northamptonshire.

The Charing Cross was where the equestrian statue of Charles II stands south of Trafalgar Square; the original cross was destroyed by the Puritans who considered it to be an example of idolatry. The present cross was erected by the London Chatham and Dover Railway in front of their new hotel at Charing Cross Station.

#### **Nature Notes**

The Ring Ouzel, a member of the Thrush family but far less common than its cousins can often be seen on Blow's Down. Much like a Blackbird but slightly smaller and slimmer; the wings have pale edges and seem lighter when folded, but the main identification is a broad white crescent on the chest. The female has browner plumage and the crescent is not as distinct. They are much less tame or friendly than a Blackbird and may be seen from a distance standing on a rock, singing, but will quickly fly away.



## to help spinal cord injured people rebuild lives after injury Great British Fish and Chip Supper – Friday 15th May 2015

Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 15th May 2015 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's vital services.

You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 8 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £40.00 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA.

In 2015 we want to make the batter matter and raise £40,000 from everyone holding suppers. Last year we raised £20,000 from the suppers.

The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer

support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to rebuild lives after spinal cord injury.

Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.

Community Fundraising Manager, Elizabeth Wright, says, "The Fish and Chip Supper is a wonderful opportunity for a great evening with friends and family. We are also encouraging people who work to hold a Fish and Chip Lunch in their work places to raise even more funds. You may be even a local community group wanting to run a fun evening with your group.

For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 071 4350 or email fundraising@siafishandchips.co.uk or visit www.siafishandchips.co.uk



### Taking the Strain out of Household Chores

Whether we enjoy it or not, most of us have to do some form of housework on a regular basis - how we go about this can put our backs at risk of injury. Follow these useful tips on how to look after your back whilst keeping the dust and cobwebs away.

#### Vacuuming

- Keep the vacuum cleaner close to your body, avoid reaching excessively forward, causing your back to bend.
- Ensure you keep your back relatively straight.
- If you need to reach further forward bend your knees not your spine.



#### Cleaning the bath

- Use a long handled mop or stand in the bath to clean the opposite side.
- Do not lean across the bath – this puts significant stress on your spine.
- Use a spray cleaner to save you reaching and scrubbing – let the detergent do the work!

#### **Ironing**

• Adjust the height of the board so that it is about 15cm (6 inches) below the elbows.



- Spread your feet apart and place them slightly in a lateral (side) lunge position
- Then begin ironing by transferring your weight from one leg to another.

#### Laundry

- Reach down to pick up a basket by bending your hips and knees, not your waist
- To lift the basket, use

your legs

Hold and carry the basket close to you at all times

#### **Removing low items**

• When reaching for an object under the counter, do not lean forward and bend at the waist - instead, bend your hips and knees, while keeping your back straight.

#### Cleaning high areas

- In order to reach high areas while performing household chores, use a step stool.
- Keep your feet flat, and your neck and back straight

#### To sweep:

- Make sure your legs are doing the work instead of your back.
  - Instead of your back.

    Place your legs in a stepping position (forward lunge) and transfer your weight from one leg to another while keeping your back straight.

Follow these few basic principles, remember to think about your posture with all household activities, ensure you take regular breaks and you should find this helps take the ache and strain out of your housework.

If you are worried about an ache or strain, or are unsure about anything in this article, one of our Chartered Physiotherapists will be happy to help.



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## Degrall Weather Station (AONE)

#### Weather Conditions for January 2015

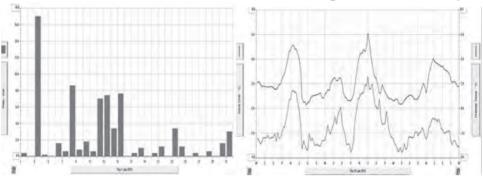
Elevation: 450 ft - Latitude: 51° 50' 13" North - Longitude: 0° 33' 34" West

The New Year started off mild and dry but by the 3rd January a westerly depression brought rain all day, this became the pattern for the month depression after depression. The rainfall was average with only 70.2mm if you compared it with January last year with 160.8mm. The second half of the month the weather turned much colder with temperatures dropping to a low of  $-6.2^{\circ}$ c compared with last year's winter low of  $-1.8^{\circ}$ c. By the 22nd we were into a week of high pressure bringing sunny days and clear nights resulting in the temperature dropping, this is when the wind chill is more noticeable, you can see this clearly in the 3 day chart below.

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature:	13.5°c	9 Jan 18.00	-6.2°c	23 Jan 04.30
<b>Mean Temperature</b>	4.5°c			
Dewpoint:	11.9°c	9 Jan 18.00	-7.1°c	23 Jan 04.00
Humidity:	97%	5 - 6 Jan	64%	10 Jan 14.00
Barometer:	1035.8 mb	4 Jan 12.00	973.9 mb	30 Jan 04.30
Wind Speed	46mph NNW	10 Jan 00.30	Months avg.	7.8 mph
Wind Chill:	9.9°c	2 Jan 00.00	−6.1°c	23 Jan 04.00
<b>Dominant Wind:</b>	W			
Rainfall * T= total rain days and moisture. R= Actual rain				
*Rain Days: 23 (T), 2	23(R) Wet	ttest Day 3 Jan	16.99 mm	0.669ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	January 2015	70.2 mm	2.76 ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	1 Month	70.2 mm	2.76 ins

#### Rain chart for January 2015

## Chart shows the wind chill effect on the temperature over 3 days



For weather data 24 hours a day, updated every 15 mins, visit: www.dagnallweather. co.uk and http://bit.ly/weather\_dagnall this site forecast and much more.

If anyone has a question, comment or wishes to contact me please email: david@dagnallweather.co.uk or telephone: 01442 843883.

Dagnall weather now has an app for your ipad & iphone! Just go to the apple store, search for Wunderstation and follow the instructions to Dagnall Weather Station. Now updated every minute.

### 2015, A New Year and a New Youl

The New Year is the ideal time to take stock and decide what is most important to us in our day-to-day lives. We aim to tackle those difficulties we have ignored over the course of the previous months and we look forward to this new year being different.

A lot of us use New Year to set personal goals and develop new skills with the hope of living our lives more healthily and with more focus on what we enjoy. We join a gym, we go on a diet, we start jogging, we apply for a new job, excreta. A lot of us don't follow through these goals and we can feel worse by the end of February.

It may be that this is because there are underlying struggles and issues that need to be tackled from a different perspective and this is where counselling can help. Sometimes it is difficult to talk about personal problems, relationships, depression. bereavement. anxiety. addictions etc. with the people we are closest to. Counselling offers you a safe, confidential space to talk about your life and anything that may be confusing, painful or uncomfortable. It allows you to talk with someone who is trained to listen attentively, and to help you improve things. Being with someone who is outside of your family and friends and is nonjudgemental and interested in supporting you through your difficulties can be an empowering experience.

Your GP can refer you for talking treatment that is free on the NHS. Locally, this will usually be a short course of 4 to 6 counselling sessions from the GP surgery's counselling service. If you are in education you may be able to access counselling through your school, college or university. If you are working, many employers offer a counselling service facebook.com/ravencounselling

either in-house or as part of an employee assistance scheme. Additionally, there are many organisations that provide talking therapies and support such as Cruse Bereavement Care (cruse.org.uk). ChildLine.org.uk and mind.org.uk.

If you decide to pay for counselling privately, the British Association for Counsellors and Psychotherapist's (BACP) website http://www.itsgoodtotalk.org.uk contains a lot of information for anyone considering therapy including information sheets, videos, links to recent research. and a 'find a therapist' directory which helps you to find a private therapist in vour local area.

To sum up, a counsellor can help you work through your problems to find practical, manageable solutions that can last throughout your life. Counselling can also be useful to help you process life events such as trauma and bereavements to find ways of living and coping effectively.

Best regards for 2015!

MBACP Registered & Accredited Counsellor

#### **About Teresa:**

Teresa is an experienced counsellor working locally in Berkhamsted and Leighton Buzzard. She has many years experience working with young people and adults, and is a registered and accredited member of the British Association for Counsellors and Psychotherapists (BACP).

#### **Contact details:**

Website: ravencounselling.co.uk Email: ravencounselling@aol.com Facebook:

#### Calvation Sound

Love - We are given life with love: but are we lovable? Do you love me?. a question often asked. How the question is received will determine the answer. Not everyone is able to speak about the way that they feel. Sometimes we only show love in the form of grief. Love, that deep and abiding emotion, the unexplainable feeling which assails each one of us from time to time.

There are so many forms of love. Love of family - that love stays despite the hurts that we receive from one another. Love of friends - they "put up" with us - warts and all!! The love of fine things - the feel of old worn wood: the touch of silk against ones skin - the "cupboard" love of the cat that twines itself around your ankles: or the loving trust of a dogs eyes. The love and depth of emotion that is seen between two people who are still "in love" after years of living together. Love of nature: the feel of the wind, the soft caress of a shower after a dry spell, the first snowdrop, the colours of autumn woodland, the ripple that crosses a field of corn: 'white horses' on the sea, stars at night, a seemingly never ending love of life that surrounds us. That loving touch, a glance across a room, music, memory, a treasury of favourite things.

I wonder what thoughts went through the mind of Andrew Lloyd Webber when he wrote "Aspects of love" and "Love changes everything". The power of the love of Jesus Christ for each and everyone of us certainly changes our lives - that leads me to thinking of the first commandment - Love the Lord your God with all your heart,

soul and mind; and then to "Love your neighbour as yourself". Love is a gift, given and received without thought of gain or reward. Love is wisdom, understanding, perception, affection.

Love is your whole being and yet love is ethereal - just the close proximity of your soul and mine

"So let us love, dear love, like as we ought" "Love is the lesson which the Lord us taught."

1 John 4v 7·12

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God, and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.



#### The Salvation Army. **Booth Place, Eaton Bray** Weekly Activities



#### Sunday

Footprints (Sunday School) 9.45-10.45am Morning Worship 11am Songs of Praise 4pm

(3rd Sunday of the month from May to Dec)

#### Tuesday

Coffee Morning

(alternate weeks) 10-11.30am Music practices (all welcome) 7.30-9pm

#### Wednesday

Home League 2.30-3.30pm

(Ladies Mtg but all welcome)

Champions Challenge Club (term time) (Ages 5-10 years) 5.45-6.45pm

#### Thursday

Parent and Toddler Group

9.30-11.30am (Term time)

Haberdashers' night

2nd Thursday of month 7.45 pm

Ladies Fellowship

(Last week of month) 7.45pm

For further details please call Envoy Hilary 01525 222087 / 07932 057490

E: hilary.chadwick@salvationarmy.org.uk W: www.salvationarmy.org.uk/eatonbray



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